



BOARD OF HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING

September 8, 2020
8:30 a.m.

A special meeting of the Board of Health was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, in Suite 610 of the Towers Building.

Board Members Present:

Terry Bell
Chief Clark J. Crago
Frank L. Petrola, M.D.
Jean-Philippe Rigaud (remote)

Staff:

Nicole Balakos, Health Commissioner
Kelly Wilson, Fiscal, Grants & PI Officer

Absent:

Dr. Patrick Macedonia, MD

Prosecutor:

Absent

Guests:

See sign in sheet

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bell called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bell made a motion to the floor to authorize the Health Commissioner to seek and accept additional floor space from the County Commissioners with their approval. The purpose is to alleviate waiting and congestion, properly space the staff and clients with social distancing to offer in-person services critical to basic public health and Covid-19 to all residents of Jefferson County.

Discussion ensued. Chief Crago asked the question if there would be any additional cost. The Health Commissioner responded that no, there would be no additional cost. Mr. Rigaud asked the Health Commissioner to go through exactly what the plan entailed. She explained that right now we have 4,186 sq. ft. Previously, the health department had 5,760 sq. ft. when they were



NICOLE BUSH BALAKOS, HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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located on the 7th floor. At that time, the department had less employees. Currently, there are 27 employees with the health department with less square footage. Having more employees with less square footage has been difficult. The waiting area in the main lobby has been used as a staging area for waiting. The Board of Elections also uses this as a waiting area and with waiting for absentee voting coming up, it could be an issue. There have been a few incidents with folks waiting for health department services where someone coming in to the office had to come in alone and the person with them had to wait in their car. The client had an adverse reaction to a test and it became an issue when trying to find the individual accompanying the client. It is important to have a waiting area and keep them off of the first floor if possible. To assume our clients can all wait in cars is not a correct assumption when some of our clients do not have cars. We do encourage appointments, but it's not necessarily possible for all to make appointments. We do not want to turn people away because they didn't realize they needed an appointment.

Mr. Bell stated that after he and the Health Commissioner attended the County Commissioner's meeting and requested space, both Commissioners Gentile and Graham came to the health department offices and toured the space and agreed the health department needed more space. Chief Crago asked if there was a timeframe on the length of the lease. The Health Commissioner stated that it will be whatever they offer us. She stated the commissioners thought based on the space we had the 7th floor (5,760), and our current square footage (4,186), it may be advantageous to give us the entire 6th floor. The health department would still have less space than we had when we were on the 7th floor with less employees. The Health Commissioner is not sure what the Commissioners will offer us.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Authorize the Health Commissioner to seek and accept additional floor space from County Commissioners</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2020-105	Mr. Bell moved and Dr. Petrola seconded a motion to authorize the Health Commissioner to seek and accept additional floor space from the County Commissioners with their approval. The purpose is to alleviate waiting and congestion, properly space the staff and clients with social distancing to offer in-person services critical to basic public health and Covid-19 to all residents of Jefferson County. Motion passed.	1 st - Bell 2 nd – Petrola Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia - Absent Petrola – Aye Rigaud – Aye



Being no further discussion, Mr. Bell made a motion to adjourn.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Motion to Adjourn</i>	<i>Vote Detail (Roll Call)</i>
Motion – 2020-106	Mr. Bell moved and Dr. Petrola seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed.	1 st - Bell 2 nd – Petrola Bell - Aye Crago – Aye Macedonia - Absent Petrola – Aye Rigaud – Aye

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 8:15 a.m. in the Trumbull Towers Building, 2nd Floor.

ATTESTED:



Mr. Terry Bell, Board President



Nicole Balakos, Health Commissioner